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Summary record of the 47th meeting (Chamber A)
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 9 July, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Khiari (Vice-President) ..... (Tunisia)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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15-11627

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Khiari (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

General debate *(continued)*

1. **Mr. Shin** Dong-ik (Republic of Korea) applauded the international community's ambitious response to the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The post-2015 development agenda should be universal, inclusive, transformative, people-centred and planet-sensitive, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities. Establishing enabling environments and sound policies and institutions at the country level would be crucial to its success. His country attached particular importance to human rights, gender equality, the protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups, education, health, rural development and inclusive economic growth, good governance and the teaching of tolerance, respect and understanding. The third International Conference on Financing for Development should define a comprehensive framework for both financial and non-financial means of implementation of the agenda.

2. It was critical to establish a universal, robust and inclusive follow-up and review framework ensuring the equal participation of all stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels. To create synergies and avoid duplication, that framework should incorporate existing mechanisms such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development and Cooperation. The high-level political forum on sustainable development should be the global focal point for overall follow-up and review. The review process should cover the means of implementation of the goals and the quality of development cooperation. It should be based on the key principles of national ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnership, transparency and mutual accountability. In that connection, good indicators and collectible, reliable, comparable and timely data would be extremely important.

3. As the principal United Nations body for coordination, policy review and policy dialogue, the Council should play a significant role in integrating the economic, social and environment dimensions of sustainable development. His country fully supported the Council's dialogues on the longer term positioning of the United Nations development system.

4. **Mr. Mvunga** (Observer for Zambia) said that, thanks to its development plans premised on promoting sound macroeconomic management, Zambia had experienced steady economic growth over the preceding decade. Although the severe nature of some of its austerity measures had hindered the full attainment of some MDG targets, those measures had created a sound economic basis for future development. Zambia had, for example, made strong progress in education and HIV/AIDS prevention.

5. The post-2015 development agenda would be the focus of its national development plan 2017-2021. It had already developed a national planning and budgeting policy with a view to harmonizing government action across sectors, ensuring broad grassroots participation in the planning process and enhancing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development programmes. Its domestication of the sustainable development goals would be based on engagement of all stakeholders, recognition that the goals were universally applicable and promotion of partnerships. In addition, it was working with the United Nations to develop the next United Nations Partnership for Development Framework in Zambia.

6. **Mr. Oporto** (Argentina), noting the importance of robust and transparent follow-up mechanisms, said that monitoring and review of the post-2015 development agenda should be entrusted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in coordination with regional forums and commissions. The follow-up mechanism should address all commitments and objectives, including those related to means of implementation. It should also keep reporting burdens to a minimum and make use of existing structures. National Governments should play a lead role in the review process, opening channels of participation for community and social organizations. Experience had shown that development could be achieved only through cooperation, solidarity and respect for national differences and each country's democratically chosen path to development.

7. Argentina applauded efforts by the United Nations and Member States to build partnerships for development with the private sector and civil society. While the State could not delegate responsibility for development and must be vigilant to the actions of a greedy minority in the private sector, it was essential to galvanize the participation of business and civil

society. However, public-private partnerships must comply fully with the mandates and objectives established by the United Nations development system, the development priorities of local agencies and the principles of national ownership and neutrality. With regard to financing, monitoring was vital to ensure follow-through on means of implementation. While private sector financing could play an important role, public financing should continue to be the mainstay of development funding. In respect of international cooperation for development, triangular cooperation remained an effective mechanism for more substantial and sustainable assistance.

8. In addition to playing a central role in the follow-up and review process, the high-level political forum should provide guidance, recommendations and political leadership and could serve as a useful mechanism for coordinating sustainable development efforts, promoting the exchange of best practices and improving the coherence of sustainable development policies. The institutional arrangements of the United Nations development system should be strengthened to allow it to address United Nations priorities more effectively in the context of local development agendas.

9. **Mr. Balisacan** (Observer for Philippines) said that the post-2015 development agenda must equitably balance the needs of the poor, marginalized and vulnerable with those of future generations. As a victim of typhoon Haiyan in 2013, his country reiterated the necessity of a revitalized global policy framework for disaster preparedness and response. It was pleased that the draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda put people at the centre of sustainable development, incorporated the unfinished business of the MDGs and recognized the various challenges of the Member States.

10. The final document should be based on clear, measurable and identifiable indicators. It should promote investment in people and natural capital and build South-South cooperation. Furthermore, it should emphasize green growth, public-private partnerships, adequate financing, capacity-building, technology transfer, sustainable consumption and production, data availability and accountability for progress. Stronger global and regional partnerships would also be needed to support national efforts. The post-2015 development agenda and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development should be consistent and mutually reinforcing, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development should be the primary mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

11. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Observer for Ukraine) said that the post-2015 development agenda must build trust by emphasizing public participation, social accountability and transparent public access — all essential for a bottom-up, people-centred approach to development — and by aligning action plans with local community needs. It should also promote partnerships. Because conflicts such as the one in Ukraine had staggering consequences for human development, it was critical for the new agenda to fully reflect the assistance needs of affected countries.

12. **Mr. El-Nabulsi** (League of Arab States) said that the League remained committed to supporting sustainable development throughout the Arab region, despite the turbulence spawned by the Israeli occupation and the spread of terrorism in the region. By communicating regularly with regional organizations, taking stock of achievements and outlining challenges, the high-level political forum would reaffirm its role of providing follow-up, review and recommendations based on the unique circumstances of each Member State, including crises and natural disasters. The League of Arab States stood ready to participate in the follow-up and review process through its different development forums. It would continue its successful cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies and was already holding meetings with the United Nations Development Programme to work out detailed plans based on developments in the region.

13. **Ms. Bogdan-Martin** (International Telecommunications Union) said that since the beginning of the millennium, almost half of the world's population had gone online. The final draft of the sustainable development goals recognized the enormous potential of information and communications technologies to accelerate human progress, making them an explicit part of goal 17 and incorporating them as a cross-cutting enabler. The success of any sustainable development strategy would hinge on how effectively it integrated a digital means of implementation and accountability. Harnessing the power of new technologies would require careful management of the complex issues of privacy and

security. The challenge for the United Nations would be to integrate the smart application of new technologies into the yearly assessments of the sustainable development goals. In that connection, the December high-level meeting of the General Assembly to review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society would present an unprecedented opportunity to coordinate the post-2015 development and World Summit agendas.

14. **Mr. Kwain** (Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that the international community faced a number of challenges in developing the post-2015 development agenda. The first was the integration imperative: the need to tackle a broad range of interconnected goals together. The second was the challenge of the last mile, which was as much political as technical or geographical, since it required eliminating root causes often deeply embedded in economic, social and political issues. The third was the need for risk-informed development, seriously examining and addressing the causes of volatility, crises and vulnerabilities. The fourth was the universality of the new agenda, which required stronger collective action and planning at the regional and global levels. The fifth was the need to build better knowledge through better metrics, better data and better analysis of options across the 17 goals.

15. UNDP had provided extensive support at the national level for the MDGs, and it had recently spearheaded the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy development strategy within the United Nations Development Group. Having offered technical advice for the definition of the new agenda, it was well placed to support the implementation of that agenda. The high-level political forum should play a key role in supporting open and participatory policymaking and bringing together different sectors of the United Nations system and national Governments, thereby increasing the engagement of all stakeholders.

16. **Mr. de Guimarães Pinto** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the new global agenda called for innovative financing; in other words, leveraging domestic and international sources of financing and capturing every opportunity for partnerships. It also required stronger South-South cooperation and far more emphasis on building capacity for public policymaking. The United Nations specialized agencies would play a vital role by pushing upstream policy support, building capacity, leading high-quality data collection and analysis and providing a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement. The promotion of education, science and culture would be crucial in achieving the goals; in that connection, UNESCO would work with all partners to establish the indispensable technology facilitation mechanism which would be launched at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in order to support the sustainable development goals.

17. Achieving the sustainable development goals would require more robust national science, technology and innovation policies and significant investments in research and development, technical support and capacity-building. Across the agenda, it would be necessary to reinforce the capacities of all countries to collect reliable, disaggregated data and to ensure a high degree of transparency. Freedom of expression and, specifically, free, independent and pluralist media, would be vital to engage all stakeholders and ensure active citizen participation.

18. **Ms. Celik** (United Cities and Local Governments) speaking on behalf of the major group for local authorities, said that her organization was committed to achieving all of the 17 interrelated sustainable development goals. It was important to ensure multi-stakeholder involvement at the national, regional and local levels in order to harness the potential of the hundreds of thousands of local and regional governments with responsibility for implementing those goals. The high-level political forum, which should be a mechanism for transmitting knowledge between key constituencies, needed a more targeted agenda reflecting the interrelationships among the goals. Because the goals represented a new approach to development, they would require new forms of data, governance and policymaking.

19. Her organization commended the important contributions of the other majors groups, which helped it to shape its own policies and positions, and hoped that the very significant coordination efforts of the major groups would be duly recognized in future sessions of the high-level political forum. It looked forward to seeing the sustainable development goals embedded in the new urban agenda to be shaped by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016.

20. **Ms. Touré** (Action aide aux familles démunies) said that, despite their importance for development, women continued to be excluded in development policies and macroeconomic analyses. A number of trends demonstrated the importance of improving policies for empowering migrant African women in and outside Africa. The specific challenges of woman of African descent should be addressed in international development efforts, including the post-2015 development agenda and the International Decade for People of African Descent. She urged support for an inclusive and endogenous sustainable development model, respectful of the rights of women and involving all stakeholders, including women of African descent.

21. **Mr. Huffines** (CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation), speaking on behalf of the major group for non-governmental organizations, said that CIVICUS stood ready to partner with all stakeholders to implement the post-2015 development agenda. It would work with Governments to craft national development plans and indicators suited to the unique circumstances of each country, emphasizing the needs of the marginalized and impoverished. At a two-day workshop in June, representatives of major groups and other stakeholders had discussed how non-State actors could participate in the work of the high-level political forum, including the monitoring and review mechanisms, and had looked at ways to strengthen the internal governance of the nine major groups and other stakeholders so as to ensure broad and balanced participation and promote openness, transparency and accountability.

22. To meet the welcome challenge of working towards interlinked goals, it would be necessary for non-governmental organizations to operate outside their traditional silos; to form alliances to work constructively with Governments and intergovernmental organizations; to partner with other stakeholders to build better connections between ground-level issues and global-level processes, and to nurture better South-South and North-South actions. In addition, a broader range of civil society organizations would need to be brought into global decision-making.

23. **Mr. Mistry** (Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute) said that neglected tropical diseases should receive priority attention in the new agenda. They perpetuated poverty by preventing children from attending schools and keeping parents from working, and they killed at least 400 thousand people a year. Being closely tied to other development issues, they demonstrated the value of a cross-cutting approach. For example, they could exacerbate the effects of undernourishment; disproportionately affected women and girls; were often linked to contaminated water or poor sanitation or hygiene and thrived in countries with weak health systems. Investing in neglected tropical disease programmes would provide high returns by reaching the poor. The Sabin Vaccine Institute applauded the decision to include neglected tropical diseases in the proposed goals. However, it was imperative also to adopt an indicator for those diseases.

24. **Ms. Kenyangi** (Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment), speaking on behalf of the major group for women, said that the high-level political forum must be strong, independent, transparent and inclusive. Its role was to ensure policy coherence across Governments and the United Nations system, and across international financial and trade institutions. It should also ensure coherence with the financing-for-development process. Its monitoring mechanism should be integrated, transparent and universal. The global review process should build on regional and national review processes, and all countries should undergo comprehensive reviews. Moreover, reviews at all levels should ensure that non-State actors, including international financial institutions and transnational corporations, were held accountable for their development commitments and impacts. The forum should provide guidelines and assessments to ensure that private financing was fully aligned with human rights and sustainable development objectives. Lastly, a mechanism should be established to ensure robust involvement, funding and capacity-building for self-organized major groups.

25. **Mr. Daly** (CLIPSAS) said that the industrial revolution had significantly harmed the Earth's ecosystem. Technological change would probably not suffice to delay the end of the industrial era; moreover, it was ethically and morally wrong to expect humankind to survive in a socially and environmentally degraded world. Sustainable development sought to find a way out of the resulting social, economic and ecological crisis, but it was based on the false hope of reconciling capital accumulation, social justice and planet preservation. The only real solution was "sustainable de-growth"; in other words, slowing economic growth among the one fifth of the world's population that consumed four fifths of the

world's resources, in order to make it possible to speed up growth among the other four fifths.

26. **Mr. Cuk** (European Disability Forum), speaking on behalf of persons with disabilities, said that implementation of the sustainable development goals should be inclusive of persons with disabilities, who were overrepresented among the world's poor. National strategies and mechanisms for achieving the goals should address the development of support services for persons with disabilities and the removal of physical and informational barriers for such persons. They should build on and comply with internationally recognized standards and commitments, such as those set forth in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Including disability standards from the outset was economically more efficient than revamping buildings or programmes later on. Moreover, respect for human rights could not be divorced from development.

27. **Mr. Theyer** (Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International) said that delivering the sustainable development goals required the voices of smallholder farmers and workers to be heard at the highest levels of Government and commerce. To ensure inclusive trade that benefited the poorest, the indicators should capture not only the impact of trade deals on projected gross domestic product but also their medium and long-term effect on the livelihoods of the poorest. Institutional reform and accountability would be necessary to ensure that bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements were fully aligned with poverty and sustainability goals. Furthermore, to achieve sustainability in supply chains, traders and retailers must commit to paying living wages for sustainable production. Since the United Nations Environment Programme recommended using the percentage market share of certified sustainable goods as an indicator of sustainable production, certified goods should meet not only environmental but also poverty and economic benchmarks.

28. **Mr. Badenoch** (World Vision), speaking on behalf of Beyond 2015, said that unprecedented numbers of citizens and civil society organizations had participated in the development of the post-2015 agenda. To meet the ambitious goals set out in that agenda, civil society must also play a major role in its implementation, monitoring and review. The engagement architecture of the Council and the high-level political forum needed changes to facilitate and institutionalize such participation. In setting up accountability mechanisms, the Council and the forum must ensure that reviews were gender- and age-sensitive and that there was equal participation by all groups, including women, children, young people, persons with disabilities and indigenous people. A bottom-up approach, with subnational reviews feeding upwards to regional and global reviews, would generate ownership at the community level, ensuring implementation at its best.

29. **Ms. Ülker** (Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfı) said that the action-oriented participation of women in decision-making within civil society organizations was essential for sustainable development. To that end, civil society organizations must start institutionalizing gender equality and including women at all decision-making levels. They should provide training for inexperienced women assuming positions of leadership and help to establish gender-responsive budgeting. They should encourage political parties to institute internal affirmative action policies at all levels. They should conduct research based on gender-disaggregated data in order to promote gender accountability and parity in education. They should support financial and literacy training for women, as well as access to financial services, business monitoring and agribusiness. Lastly, they should work to change cultural attitudes and stereotypes in local communities in order to ensure the full and effective participation of women in sustainable development policies.

30. **Mr. Jourdan** (Global Foundation for Democracy and Development) said that, to re-establish trust and ensure that development initiatives were truly sustainable, the new development agenda should target local productivity; strengthen the social fabric of communities; offer sustainable development education and professional development at the local level and promote community participation in sustainable development decision-making. Innovation and information and communications technology could play a vital role in enhancing public participation, which was crucial to ensuring that development initiatives led to long-term collaborative relationships.

31. **Mr. Karmakar** (International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation) said that despite the very real impact of the MDGs, more than one billion people still lived in extreme poverty, and slavery remained a multibillion dollar industry. A global society where

there was no poverty or hunger, where diseases where controlled, where peace and justice prevailed and where knowledge flowed freely remained a distant goal. However, it was the duty of the international community to reach out to the hungry, the downtrodden and the marginalized.

32. **Ms. Ferrell** (International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment) said that although her organization was specifically concerned with the goal of equitable quality education for all, it supported all of the sustainable development goals. A number of steps should be taken to ensure access to education for people with disabilities. They included enforcing the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, distributing technology and assisted devices that supported instruction; providing training in the alternative skills for parents, teachers, rehabilitation workers and others involved in the education of visually impaired children and youth; educating the public to see persons with disabilities as capable people, and disaggregating data on economic and educational indicators to show impacts on persons with disabilities.

33. **Ms. Richards** (International Federation for Family Development) said that, given the crucial role of families in social development, better institutional frameworks were needed to provide support for them. Family policy development had not kept pace with changing norms and expectations or the growing difficulties experienced by families. Moreover, more attention should be given at all levels to the impact of policies on families and to the development, promotion and implementation of family-friendly policies.

34. **Ms. Minard** (International Federation for Home Economics, expressing concern at the slow progress on reducing illiteracy, especially among women and girls, strongly urged Governments to implement local, national and international literacy campaigns and recommended the compilation, publication and dissemination of gender- and age-disaggregated data evaluating the literacy levels of all populations along a continuum. Official definitions of literacy should include financial and digital literacy.

35. **Mr. Parmegiani** (Legião da Boa Vontade) said that to harness the full potential of education as a force for development, it was necessary to guarantee access to quality education for all, give people the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable lifestyles and replicate evidence-based curricular models that taught universal values, human rights, ecumenical spirituality and fraternal love. Altruism was the cornerstone of sustainable development.

36. **Mr. Weber** (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) said that the production of palm oil was a cause of deforestation, loss of biodiversity and human rights violations. Yet, as a highly efficient crop, it was one of the few that could lift small farmers out of poverty. Since the Roundtable's inception in 2014, it had certified 20 per cent of global palm oil production as sustainable. To maximize the impact of its scheme, it was looking to move from certifying individual farms to certifying jurisdictions. Its ultimate goal was to link producer jurisdictions with jurisdictions that bought commodities. Its success thus far showed that sustainable commodity round tables could have a real impact on promoting sustainable production.

37. **Ms. Ghods** (Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer) said that one of the most important developments to arise out of the MDGs had been the empowerment of non-governmental organizations. To attain the sustainable development goals, it was crucial to identify and empower effective non-governmental organizations. The Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer recommended the establishment of a third-party organization to fulfil that identification function. That organization could also create models for future non-governmental organizations and develop strategic plans for empowering non-governmental organizations to contribute to the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

38. **Ms. Levy** (Soroptimist International) said that chronic underinvestment in gender equality had exacerbated development limitations. As a prerequisite for achieving full development potential, gender equality should be integrated into all of the sustainable development goals, receive dedicated resources and be considered a critical element of national policy. To prevent dilution of the goals, which could leave women and girls particularly vulnerable, compulsory national, regional and global monitoring, review and accountability mechanisms should be mandated in the outcome document. Non-governmental organizations should be treated as partners with valuable recommendations, not merely "other stakeholders". Their ability to collect data, identify and work with

vulnerable and marginalized groups and improve the legitimacy of development programmes made them indispensable for achieving the sustainable development goals.

39. **Ms. Wallace** (World Federation for Mental Health) said that it was imperative to recognize people with mental illness and psychosocial disabilities and to affirm physical and mental health as a basic human right at the heart of a people-centred approach to sustainable development. She commended the inclusion of mental health in sustainable development goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and respectfully requested the Member States to ensure that the goals were accompanied by two indicators suggested by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network: indicator 23, probability of dying between exact ages of 30 and 70 from any cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease or suicide; and indicator 28, proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder, including psychosis, bipolar affective disorder and moderate-to-severe depression.

40. **Mr. Marzotto** (World Jewellery Confederation) said that the Confederation was committed to supporting sustainable environmental practices and development-oriented investment in the jewellery industry. It created opportunities for its members to invest in developing economies, where the jewellery industry was often a major source of employment. In partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, it had developed and implemented a corporate social responsibility programme to educate the diamond, gemstone and jewellery industry about the principles of corporate social responsibility and their implementation. It had also established an education foundation to promote corporate social responsibility throughout the industry.

41. **Mr. Pérez Rulfo Torres** (Corporativa de Fundaciones) said that Mexican civil society organizations had led remarkable and successful efforts to promote the participation of citizens and non-State actors in the post-2015 development agenda process. He called on all stakeholders to view civil society organizations as not only active participants in that process but also partners in the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the sustainable development goals. Local governments and civil society organizations would play an active role in translating the goals into national development activities and developing the decentralized approaches required for programme ownership, bottom-up actions, effectiveness and accountability.

42. Because of their ability to contribute material and financial resources, leadership and human capital and to facilitate political accountability and the participation of non-State actors, civil society organizations — especially those from the South — should be better represented in decision-making and follow-up at the global, regional and national levels. His organization appreciated the open and democratic nature of the high-level political forum and the post-2015 agenda process, and the efforts of the United Nations to include civil society organizations in it, in particular through the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development, which it hoped would work with other social actors to place greater emphasis on marginalized groups in the sustainable development goals.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

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President: Mr. Drobnjak (Vice-President) ..... (Croatia)
later: Ms. Mejía Vélez (Vice-President) ..... (Colombia)

Contents

Regional cooperation

Dialogue with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions on the topic "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what it will take at the regional level"

Panel discussion on the topic "Implementing a post-2015 development agenda that works for the least developed countries"

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Regional cooperation (E/2015/15, E/2015/15/Add.1 and E/2015/15/Add.2)

Dialogue with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions on the topic "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what it will take at the regional level"

1. **Mr. Somavía** (Director, Andrés Bello Diplomatic Academy of Chile; former Director-General, International Labour Organization), moderator, introducing the topic of the discussion, said that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development had marked the beginning of a growing recognition of the important role of the regional commissions in the United Nations system. They were its link to the real-life social and political processes in the regions, as well as the regions' link to the higher levels of the system.

2. **Ms. Khalaf** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), panellist, said that the increasing impact of the regional and global environment on national development outcomes necessitated an integrated approach to policymaking. To help countries optimize their approach to the interrelated sustainable development goals and other cross-cutting issues, the Commission had created a dynamic set of models and analytical tools to capture the relationships between policies, goals and subregional or regional variables on the one hand and development outcomes on the other. That comprehensive framework addressed, inter alia, the water-energy nexus, the growth-employment-social protection nexus, and a conflict-development nexus that had already been used to develop a comprehensive national agenda for the post-conflict reconstruction of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Commission was also working with individual States to build integrated national development frameworks, and it was collaborating with Member States and the League of Arab States on a regional development framework for determining the national costs and benefits of regional integration, which it had already used to assess the subregional impact of the Syrian crisis, the Libyan crisis and the Israeli Gaza offensive. Lastly, it was facilitating knowledge-sharing between countries transferring its expertise in modelling to national regional institutions in order to build their capacit integrate development goals.

3. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary, United Nat Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific), panellist, said that at the request of Mem States, the Commission had recently prepared a g entitled *Balancing the Three Dimensions Sustainable Development: From Integration Implementation*, which emphasized reconciling so needs with planetary boundaries, developing metric measure progress in terms of all three dimension sustainable development and factoring the finite na of planetary resources into policies and plans. In 20 it had issued a publication entitled *Low Carbon G Growth Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific*, presen more than 50 case studies of successful practi including many in the Asia-Pacific region itself. Commission had also constructed a multidimensio inclusiveness index to score the region's econom Asia continued to be a leading investor in g technologies. Among the countries in the Asia-Pac region, China, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Viet Nam already developed green growth strategies and pl Under a regional road map for implementing the p 2015 development agenda adopted in May at the A Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Commission was mandated to work on capa development, the sharing of best practices, inclusive and green growth strategies.

4. **Ms. Bárcena** (Executive Secretary, Un Nations Economic and Social Commission for L America and the Caribbean), panellist, said that du the Millennium Development Goal period, the L American and Caribbean States had been able to millions out of poverty basically through social pol thanks in large part to a booming economy. In contr given the very different economic environment and ambitious nature of the new agenda, achieving sustainable development goals would require l decisions and difficult trade-offs. It would impossible without shifting from a culture of privil to a culture of equality, ensuring fair distributio productivity gains between capital and labour arriving at a new development model based on sustainable management of natural resources intergenerational solidarity. With their many subsid bodies, the regional commissions were well place

understand what was happening at the national level and to know if countries had structures such as national planning institutions and statistics systems that were necessary to implement the new agenda. They could also be instrumental in involving private-sector and civil society stakeholders in the sustainable development process.

5. **Mr. Somavía** (Director, Andrés Bello Diplomatic Academy of Chile; former Director-General, International Labour Organization), said that one way to tie what was happening at the regional level to what was happening in New York might be to have the Bureau of the Council attend the five regional forums on sustainable development.

6. **Mr. Bach** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), panellist, said that the transition to the sustainable development goals required intergovernmental structures, which was exactly what the regional commissions had to offer. The Economic Commission for Europe had already spearheaded effective conventions and agreements on air and water quality, transport infrastructure and vehicle safety, and it was working on setting pan-European energy standards for construction. Its Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme coordinated the efforts of United Nations institutions and intergovernmental, private-sector and civil society stakeholders. Its statistical body had compiled the first set of standards for sustainable development statistics. With respect to monitoring and review, it was experienced in organizing regional peer review mechanisms and was working with the countries in the region on possible approaches to reviewing performance on the sustainable development goals. Acting as the regional forum on sustainable development, the Commission had endorsed a high-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and proposed sustainable development goals at its sixty-sixth session (E/ECE/1475).

7. **Mr. Hamdok** (Deputy Executive Secretary of Knowledge Generation, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), panellist, said that the Commission was working with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to ensure the availability of reliable data and statistics, which would be imperative for follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda. Like the other regional commissions, it had instituted a regional forum on sustainable development and a regional coordination mechanism, both of which would be very helpful in the tracking, assessment and follow-up processes. The regional coordination mechanism provided support to the African Union and was fully aligned with its priorities, including its Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and Agenda 2063, which laid out medium- and long-term goals, priorities and strategies. The Commission had recently set up a voluntary, unconditional and mutually agreed African Peer Review Mechanism that encouraged national ownership, interaction and accountability between policymakers and citizens, and the sharing of lessons learned at the highest levels. With a few adjustments — primarily bringing in environmental issues — it would be perfectly suited for tracking performance on the sustainable development goals. Another potentially useful mechanism was the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa, conducted jointly each year by the Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Interactive discussion

8. **Ms. Kudasova** (Russian Federation) said that the basic function of the regional commissions should continue to be the provision of technical assistance to enable countries to exercise their right to development. However, they should also be in charge of regional reviews of sustainable development, which might take the form of voluntary presentations on one or more goals, either by individual countries or by groups of countries belonging to a regional structure such as the European Union or the Eurasian Economic Union. Summaries of presentations made in the relevant sectoral committees could be submitted to the executive committees and thence to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Such an approach was preferable to peer review, since it allowed joint review of States with similar economic and social development levels and, in many cases, shared economic and social agendas. Of course, it would be necessary to define the terms and procedures as well as the sources of funding.

9. The Russian Federation attached great importance to enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific. At the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in June, the Chair of the Eurasian Economic Commission had stressed the importance of

working with the European Union to arrive at a shared vision of the future, without which it would be difficult to move forward on sustainable development. As to the Asia-Pacific region, her country agreed with the Secretary-General on the need to strengthen partnerships among existing regional and subregional mechanisms, and would be grateful if the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific would share her vision of stronger regional partnerships.

10. **Mr. Castro** (Guatemala) said that Member States were proposing that the regional commissions should assume regional leadership in the sustainable development process by building partnerships, promoting actions and programmes and coordinating the work agendas of regional intergovernmental bodies and financial mechanisms. However, to discharge their new responsibilities, they would need stronger capacities, including increased financial resources.

11. **Ms. Camacho** (Observer for Mexico) said that countries had primary responsibility for implementing the sustainable development goals and would therefore need stronger tracking and assessment mechanisms. Nevertheless, the regional mechanisms had the necessary perspective for many assessment activities and were also critical for ensuring comparable results. Relevant regional indicators and regional capacity-building would be vital. Mexico advocated a peer review mechanism for regional-level reviews because it would allow much deeper dialogue. Whatever the regional or global follow-up mechanisms chosen, the participation of civil society and other important stakeholders would be essential.

12. **Mr. Kabaev** (Kyrgyzstan) called on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to participate actively in the development of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Kyrgyzstan and to take steps to reinvigorate the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The delegations were invited to attend his country's voluntary presentation on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, to be held the following morning.

13. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), responding to the representative of the Russian Federation, said that the Commission stood ready to promote connectivity in the Euro-Asian corridor. It worked closely with other regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was intensifying efforts to implement the blueprint for the ASEAN Economic Community. It was also very much involved in the national development strategies of the Centre for Environment and Development Studies, and it was engaged in proactive dialogue with the soon-to-be-launched Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank — a very substantial example of effective South-South cooperation. With respect to statistics, the Commission was assessing statistical gaps in the subregions, had launched the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade 2015-2024 and would be working closely with national statistical bodies to strengthen their capacities.

14. **Ms. Bárcena** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) welcomed the emphasis on strengthening the leadership role of the regional commissions which, as intermediaries between the Council and regional and subregional institutions, including banks, could help to align national, regional and global agendas. They could also play a role in identifying critical nexuses, such as the education-work nexus; ensuring comparability; choosing indicators; and identifying structural gaps.

15. **Mr. Bach** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) said that the Commission would continue to work with the Eurasian Economic Community, the European Union and individual Member States to strengthen cross-border and interregional cooperation, in line with the Russian Federation's call for a common economic and humanitarian space from the Atlantic to the Pacific and its own historic mission. It was already collaborating on the development of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Kyrgyzstan, and it was working hard to prepare for the interagency consultations on strengthening the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, to be held in Kyrgyzstan in November in association with the tenth session of the SPECA Governing Council and Economic Forum. It hoped that one of the outcomes of the session would be a regional declaration of commitment to the sustainable development goals.

16. **Mr. Hamdok** (Deputy Executive Secretary of Knowledge Generation, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) welcomed the support expressed for the peer review mechanism. The African Union's Agenda 2063 signalled a return to long-term planning, and the Commission was working with countries in the region to design strategic capacity-building interventions and provide other technical assistance in that connection.

17. **Ms. Khalaf** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), speaking as Coordinator of the Regional Commissions, said that the sustainable development goals were in some respects beyond the means of any one country. The regional commissions had the capacity to work with countries individually or collectively, as regional groupings, on integrating the three pillars of sustainable development and the new goals with their policies. They had already established the regional forums on sustainable development, which could play an important role both in monitoring implementation and in linking the regions to the high-level political forum and the Council. She agreed with the moderator that having the Bureau attend the regional forums would be extremely helpful.

18. **Mr. Somavía** (Director, Andrés Bello Diplomatic Academy of Chile; former Director-General, International Labour Organization), summing up the dialogue, also suggested that the Bureau might attend a meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

19. *Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

Panel discussion on the topic "Implementing a post-2015 agenda that works for the least developed countries"

20. **Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf** (Observer for Liberia), President of the Republic, delivering the keynote address, said that the Millennium Development Goals had been an important tool for human development. However, their overall success masked the limited achievements in most of the least developed countries, due to their failure to take ownership of goals set by others and to a methodology that overlooked differences in conditions and capacities. Liberia had nevertheless made considerable progress, despite a recent growth slump triggered by falling commodity prices and exacerbated by the Ebola crisis. Its experience with the Ebola epidemic highlighted the importance of developing infrastructure and providing training to respond to public health challenges.

21. The post-2015 development agenda must give special priority to helping the least developed countries catch up. Fortunately, as the fruit of broad consultations, the proposed sustainable development goals were more likely to encourage ownership, and most were related either directly or indirectly to the Millennium Development Goals. The least developed countries would need to build the new goals and targets into their national development strategies, working in close collaboration with their national statistical houses and the financial and development institutions. Critical policy areas for structural transformation included the elaboration of relevant macroeconomic policies; mobilization of financial resources and industrial policies to direct those resources to the appropriate sectors and activities; investment in rural development and industrialization; promotion of synergies between the modernization of agriculture and the development of non-farm rural production; improvement of revenue administration, and continued promotion of a universal, transparent and inclusive multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization; and meaningful liberalization in a trading system that encouraged long-term investment in productive capacity.

22. The outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development would need to identify obstacles, define commitments and create or strengthen mechanisms to ensure predictable and secure resources for development. It must also support country-led and country-owned transitions from conflict, in accordance with the principles set out in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States by the Group of Seven Plus. To implement a new global agenda that worked for the least developed countries, development assistance should be coordinated with national development programmes and priorities. Success would also depend in large measure on the involvement of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, national parliaments, the media and the private sector.

23. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), panellist, said that while there had been significant progress globally in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, that progress had been uneven among and within countries. Most of the least developed countries, for example, would not achieve all those Goals. The international community would therefore need to take into account the specific challenges facing those countries in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

24. The least developed countries would also need to integrate that agenda into their national development strategies and develop appropriate indicators to measure progress in that regard. They would therefore need support from the United Nations system and the international community to build their national statistical capacities. Furthermore, there must be strong emphasis on building national capacity to develop the cross-sectoral policies required to implement an integrated agenda. For monitoring and follow-up purposes, it would be necessary to broaden existing country review mechanisms to cover the review of the new development agenda.

25. With respect to funding for the implementation of that agenda, it was essential to quantify the investment required in each sector and to design a supportive macroeconomic framework which should be backed by a practical financing strategy that included both domestic and external resources. The least developed countries would also require committed support from development partners in order to achieve the sustainable development goals in a timely and effective manner. Some of that assistance should therefore be used to leverage trade, investment and other resources by funding productive capacity development. Developing infrastructure, building resilience and technology leapfrogging were also critical.

26. **Mr. Lehman** (Chairman and President of the International Intellectual Property Institute and member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries), panellist, said that the High-level Panel's immediate purpose was to evaluate the feasibility of creating a technology bank for least developed countries. The bank would have three components: a research depository, a patents bank and a science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism. The first two already existed. Thus the success of the technology bank hinged on the feasibility of the supporting mechanism, which should ease technology transfer and involve experts in ensuring that transferred technologies were used effectively. Given the cross-border nature of many problems, facilitating and improving technology transfer would benefit everyone, as in the case of the Ebola epidemic, when transmission of the disease in developed countries could have been prevented by following protocols developed in Liberia.

27. **Ms. Montas** (Independent Broadcast Journalist, former Spokesperson for the Secretary-General and former Director-General of Radio Haiti-Inter), moderator, said that the President of Liberia had attributed the limited success of the Millennium Development Goals in least developed countries partially to their failure to assume ownership of the Goals. She asked the panellists how those countries could be encouraged to take ownership of the sustainable development goals.

28. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) said that, unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the proposed goals would be the product of extensive consultations at the national, regional and international levels, resulting in greater national ownership from the outset. The next step would be to ensure that the goals were appropriately integrated into the national development strategies of each country and that the support provided was tailored to the conditions of each country.

29. **Ms. Carroll** (United Kingdom) asked when the High-level Panel would present its report.

30. **Mr. Lehman** (Chairman and President of the International Intellectual Property Institute and member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries) said that the Panel hoped to submit a report with recommendations for implementing the technology bank by mid-August.

31. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia) asked how the United Nations regional commissions in particular and the United Nations system in general could help least developed countries implement the new development agenda.

32. **Mr. Lehman** (Chairman and President of the International Intellectual Property Institute and member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries) said that the High-level Panel had yet to formulate its recommendations, but they might well include a regional approach.

33. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) said that achievement of the sustainable development goals in least developed countries would require action at the national, regional and global levels. Much could be learned from regional best practices. Integrating regional markets would help to build the capacities of the poorest countries. The regional commissions, the regional offices of United Nations system entities and the regional economic and political forums could all contribute to developing regional value chains, trade, infrastructure and resiliency, all of which were essential for successful implementation of the new agenda in the individual countries.

34. **Mr. Hasan** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that technology could help least developed countries diversify their exports. He asked how affordable and how easy it would be for those countries to access the technology bank.

35. **Mr. Lehman** (Chairman and President of the International Intellectual Property Institute and member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries) said that the least developed countries were exempt from the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights until 2021 and could therefore already access proprietary technologies without paying for them. Moreover, few inventors attempted to obtain intellectual property rights in those countries, which lacked the capacity to use the technologies without the inventors' assistance. The High-level Panel was looking for ways to help least developed countries build their capacity to develop and use technology effectively. For example, they should have the capacity to adapt first world technology for third world use.

36. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) said that the proposed technology bank, which already had considerable support from development partners, aimed to go beyond mere technology transfer to encompass technology diffusion and innovation.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.